



Iowa Board of Mortuary Science Guidance Related to Governor Reynold's Proclamations & COVID-19

Governor Kim Reynolds has issued a Proclamation of Emergency Disaster. In this Proclamation, Governor Reynolds temporarily suspended a number of regulatory provisions applicable to various professions. The full text of the Proclamation is available on the Governor's website. The Board issues the following guidance regarding the Proclamation:

License Renewal

The Board office is still processing renewals at this time. Licensees are not required to renew for the duration of the Proclamation. Licensees who wish to renew as scheduled are encouraged to renew using the online system.

Funeral establishment licenses that are not renewed during the Proclamation must be renewed within thirty (30) days of the end of the Proclamation. Completed applications received within thirty (30) days of the end of the Proclamation will be considered timely and will not result in any late penalties.

Continuing Education

Licensees have until June 30, 2021 to complete the continuing education required for license renewal for any license set to expire in 2020. Licensees may renew prior to completing the required continuing education. In order to complete the renewal application, licensees will need to attest to completion of the required continuing education. Licensees should attest to the completion of the required hours if they have completed, or plan to complete, the required continuing education by June 30, 2021.

Any Board rules that require licensees to complete any continuing education in-person are waived for this license renewal, regardless of when the license is set to expire.

Funeral Services and Ceremonies

- Funeral services and ceremonies are permitted as a spiritual or religious gathering regardless of whether the service is in a church, funeral establishment, or some other location, and regardless of who is conducting the ceremony.
- The funeral director and funeral establishment shall implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each gathering to ensure social distancing of employees, volunteers, and other participants, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with the guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Visitations

- Beginning June 10, 2020, visitations of more than ten people may be held, and establishments are not limited to 50% of the facility's capacity.
- Funeral directors and establishments conducting visitations must comply with all applicable Proclamation provisions, including:
 - Ensuring at least six feet of physical distance between each group or individual attending alone; and
 - Implementing reasonable measures under the circumstances of each gathering to ensure social distancing of gathering participant, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health and, for any food service, the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals.